



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

JAIPURIA et al.

Art Unit: 3621

Application No.: 09/901,630

Examiner: C. Sherr

Filed: July 11, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 024430-00001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING NETWORKING POTENTIAL
USING A SECURED SYSTEM FOR AN ONLINE COMMUNITY

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 16, 2005

Sir:

The Applicants respectfully submit the following statements commenting on the reasons for allowance noted in the Notice of Allowability issued on November 7, 2005.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner stated that,

[I]ndependent claim 51 is directed at a method of optimizing networking capability. This claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature of assigning specific access rights to individual entities, and only through said individual entities, searching other databases, in a tree-like structure. Because nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests the latter feature, independent claim 51 and its dependent claims 52-55 are deemed allowable.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 51 also identifies the uniquely distinct features of "assigning a key to represent all the multibridge linking codes that have been assigned during the search; configuring the key to be passed between each

entity in the hierarchical chain; using the key to contact the first entity in the hierarchical chain found during the search; and using the key to contact the next entity in the hierarchical chain found during the search; wherein each entity in the hierarchical chain decides whether to forward the key to the subsequent entity in the hierarchical chain."

The failure of the Applicants to comment on the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance on the other matters should not be treated as acquiescence to the Examiner's statement.

In the event that any additional fees are due with respect to the filing of this paper, the undersigned authorizes the Office to charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 and reference **docket number 024430-00001**.

Respectfully submitted,
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